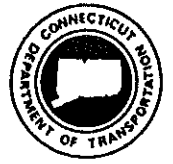




# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Office of the  
Commissioner

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### **Public Hearing – February 23, 2015 Transportation Committee**

#### **Testimony Submitted by Commissioner James Redeker Department of Transportation**

**HB 5940 – An Act Concerning Signs Prohibiting "Jake-Braking".  
HB 5951 – An Act Concerning Jake Brakes.**

These two proposals seek to prohibit the use of compression release engine brakes, or "Jake Brakes," when in proximity to a residential neighborhood, as in HB 5940, or if a municipality authorizes such a ban, as in HB 5951.

Jake brakes are a form of engine braking systems installed on some diesel engines. The Department of Transportation has concerns with banning Jake brakes due to its impact on a system designed to assist trucks in stopping, particularly on interstate/expressway systems.

According to Jacobs Vehicle Systems, a Connecticut manufacturer of Jake brakes, the noise concerns result when engine braking systems are employed on trucks with modified, and often illegal, exhaust systems. The excessive sound levels should not be attributed to all trucks that make use of engine braking systems.

Statutory authority for the regulation of truck equipment and usage, maximum noise levels, and noise pollution rests with the Department of Motor Vehicles and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CGS Sec. 14-80a). Increased enforcement of existing regulations could address these noise concerns without penalizing legitimate users of engine braking systems.

For further information or questions, please contact Pam Sucato ([pamela.sucato@ct.gov](mailto:pamela.sucato@ct.gov)) or CJ Strand ([carl.strand@ct.gov](mailto:carl.strand@ct.gov)) at the Department of Transportation, (860) 594-3013.